

# The President's Report

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## Care Close to Home

*UofL's rural area medical program changes lives*

Last month, nearly 1,000 patients in Pikeville, Ky., some even camping out in their cars overnight, lined up early in the morning to take advantage of free health care provided by some 175 faculty, students and staff from the University of Louisville.

One of those patients was Lona Justice of Shelbianna, Ky., who had been waiting since 3:30 the day before and was one of the first off the buses when they rolled into the treatment area. Justice had been in a car wreck that had damaged all her teeth. She needed dentures, but first she needed 19 teeth pulled—a procedure that would have cost her between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

"To me, this is just God's blessing," Justice said, fighting back tears.

UofL volunteers were working through the organization Remote Area Medical (RAM)-Kentucky. School of Dentistry volunteers saw more than 600 patients over the two days, pulling 1,161 teeth, providing 269 fillings and performing 131 teeth cleanings.

RAM is a national effort to provide free health care in underserved areas such as Appalachia. The program offers free medical exams and education in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cholesterol, breast and cervical cancer and other areas; dental cleanings, fillings and

extractions; and eye exams and free glasses.

Third-year dental school student Caroline Curtis was one of the UofL volunteers who treated Justice. "All I could think about was that she had been in pain for a long time and here I was trying to help her get out of pain," Curtis said. "She started crying and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, do you need more anesthetic, do you need anything else?' And she said, 'No, I'm just so thankful. I've waited so long for this and I didn't know when it was going to happen.'"

"At the end—this makes me tear up—she gave me a big hug. That's the best thing I can get. This is why I do it."

### A Message from **Dr. Ramsey**

*Dear Friends of UofL,*

When I travel throughout our beautiful state to talk with students, teachers, doctors, community groups and legislators about the University of Louisville, I always bring plenty of numbers. I am an economist. I like numbers. But there are some numbers that describe Kentucky that I don't like. Numbers we need to change. Numbers like:

- **1st** in lung cancer and 50 percent higher than the national incidence
- **4th** in overall cancer incidence in 2006
- **7th** in the incidence of obesity in 2008
- **7th** in the overall number of deaths associated with cardiovascular disease

- **9th** in the number of deaths from heart disease
- **9th** in the number of deaths from stroke

Kentucky is the sixth most rural state in the country. More than half the state is defined as medically underserved. At the University of Louisville it is our responsibility and mandate to try and improve the health of Kentuckians throughout the state. We are providing specialty care in rural areas through our "RoboDocs," our Kentucky Cancer Program, our acclaimed dental outreach programs and many other initiatives in medicine, nursing and public health.

Also, with 32 million Americans soon having more access to health care, the workforce is inadequate



in many parts of the country, including Kentucky. Our efforts to recruit, develop and retain health care professionals in medically underserved areas is more vital than ever.

*James A. Ramsey*



Gov. Steve Beshear announced June 9 appointments to Kentucky's state colleges and university boards. His University of Louisville Board of Trustees appointees effective July 1 are:



**Augusta Brown Holland** is a Louisville developer and business owner who along with her husband, Gill Holland, developed The Green Building in the city's NuLu (New Louisville) district.



**Robert Walton Rounsavall III** is an executive with Dixie Real Properties LLC and an adopted alumnus of UofL. He also serves on the UofL Foundation and UofL Hospital boards.



**Marie K. Abrams** of Prospect, Ky., is a 1959 graduate of UofL. She had been named to the board in January to complete Margaret Handmaker's term. She now begins her own full term.



### Sana Abhari

The 2010–11 Student Government Association representative on the UofL Board of Trustees is new SGA President Sana Abhari. The SGA president, who is

chosen through a campus-wide election, is the chief representative of the UofL student body, overseeing a \$600,000 budget and acting as the student voice to the highest levels of university administration.

## Under Our Wing

### UofL features high school summer programs on campus

PJ Clemons, 17, of Russellville, decided he wanted to become a doctor when his mother died three years ago from an assortment of medical problems.

"I want to give the world better health care than she got," Clemons said.

To get him started, Clemons recently attended the two-week-long GEAR UP Kentucky program on UofL's campus. Designed to give high school students exposure to careers in medicine and dentistry, the program provides hands-on experience. Among other activities, students had the opportunity to treat patients—both mannequins and actors—in the simulation lab at the medical school and practice suturing skills on pigs' feet at the UofL School of Dentistry.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program that encourages middle and high school students to stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to college. It is run through the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in partnership with schools and universities like UofL.

GEAR UP is just one of many programs on campus giving high school students exposure to careers in various fields including accounting, law, teaching and cancer research. Some are partnerships with outside organizations, like GEAR UP, and others are homegrown UofL initiatives, such as the James Graham Brown Cancer Center summer internship program, which takes about 10 to 20 high school students from the metro area and

pairs them with cancer researchers to work in labs for the summer.

More than 100 high schoolers will be on campus this summer taking advantage of these opportunities.

Programs like these can give students a leg up on their college studies, said Amanda Hourigan, a senior associate at the accounting firm KPMG, who was on campus to participate in a roundtable discussion with the students in the four-day, residential Accounting Careers Awareness Program.

"It gets them thinking a little bit earlier about what they want to do and what they need to do to get there," Hourigan said.



**"I want to give the world better health care than she (my mother) got."**

PJ Clemons, 17, Russellville



## UofL participates in many health-care partnerships across Kentucky, including:

- The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and Trover Clinic, two major initiatives that help recruit and retain health care professionals in medically underserved areas.
- The "Smile Kentucky!" program, a nationally acclaimed community partnership in which the UofL School of Dentistry provides free dental service to thousands of patients each year.
- The Kentucky Cancer Program, which focuses on reducing cancer incidence and mortality
- "RoboDoc," which enables UofL specialists to "be at the bedside" of patients in 13 participating hospitals across the state, using a computer to interact with them
- And more—UofL has many other relationships in nursing, public health and medicine, too.

